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History of Brûlé's Discoveries and Explorations, 1610-1626, being a Narrative of the Discovery by Stephen Brûlé of Lakes Huron, Ontario and Superior; and of his Explorations With a Biographical Notice of the Discoverer and Explorer. By CONSUL WILLSHIRE BUTTERFIELD. (Cleveland: The Helman-Taylor Co. 1898. Pp. xii, 184.)

BRULE, born in 1592, came to Canada with Champlain in 1608, and two years afterward was sent to winter among "Hurons who lived near a lake which bears their name" (p. 10). In 1615 he was engaged in Champlain's expedition against the Iroquois Onondaga fort, and was detailed to bring an auxiliary force to the siege. He brought it, but did not arrive till Champlain had abandoned the enterprise. Nothing was heard of him during the next three years, but in 1618 he reappeared among the Hurons who had come for trade at Three Rivers, and told of wanderings down to Chesapeake bay. He was soon employed on a salary of a hundred pistoles as a commercial traveller for persuading the aborigines to bring their furs into French settlements. In 1621 he traded and explored north from the Hurons and afterward westward, possibly reaching Lake Superior. Later, after a journey in the Neutral Nation, he told a missionary "wonders" about them. In 1629 when English invaders lacked a pilot up the St. Lawrence, he was easily bribed to furnish what they needed, becoming on a small scale a Benedict Arnold, and with better success. When Canada became French again, or sooner, he went to live among Hurons, till in 1632 he was killed and eaten by them.

These incidents—matters of common knowledge to readers of Parkman, Winsor, etc.—are the warp and woof of Mr. Butterfield's work. They hardly demand or warrant a two-dollar volume of well-nigh two hundred pages. More than a third of the book, however, consists in notes, which are swelled by something of irrelevant padding. Then criticisms on other writers are multitudinous. Some hole is found, or fancied, in all their coats, "and faith! 'tis printed." Among those thus touched with an Ishmaelitish hand are Parkman as to Brûlé's name, etc., Shea as to Daillon, McMullen as to the Mississippi, Garneau as to Récollets, Geddes, Clark and Marshall as to Onondaga, Winsor as to Manitoulin, Neill as to Chesapeake, Slafter as to Three Rivers, Kingsford as to Ontario, Guss as to Capt. John Smith, etc.

The contention of Mr. Butterfield is that he has proved what has always been admitted to be possible, indeed probable, that Brûlé was in some sense a four-fold Columbus—first to go down the Susquehanna, and first to discover Lakes Ontario, Huron and Superior, and by a sort of anti-climax, first to shoot Lachine rapids.

Our author's pages are always instructive, though in many of them his hero is conspicuous only by his absence. His geographical details are helpful in identifying localities. His keen exposures of many a minor error will be accepted with thanks by a score of victims humbly kissing

the rod. His extracts from rare authors, as Champlain and Sagard, especially those in the original French, will be gratifying to every thorough student.

But Brûlé's champion brings forward no new authorities, no newly discovered fact, to thicken the old proofs that did demonstrate thinly. Thus, when Brûlé came down from his winter among the Hurons he is stated to "have given Champlain a lengthy account of all he had seen and heard" (p. 20). If he said he had seen Lake Huron, Champlain's journal would have told us so. He does tell us that "four men assured him they had seen that sea" (p. 131). Brûlé was not one of them. Huron water was not visible from all parts of the broad Huron land. The Susquehanna story, supported only by Brûlé's word, must in Champlain's later years have seemed to him a trifle light as air. His estimate will appear as we proceed. In regard to Lake Superior, Mr. Butterfield makes much of a copper ingot brought by Brûlé to Sagard (p. 105). Yet he must know that such floats are still picked up several hundred miles from that lake. He expatiates more largely on a remark of Sagard that "Huron and the large lake beyond it together extended about thirty days' voyage with canoes according to the statement of the savages and of the interpreter four hundred leagues" (p. 161). His words are in French, "*trente journées de canots selon le rapport des sauvages et du truchement quatre cent lieues de longueur*" (p. 171). These words seem to be used merely as alternative phrases to show the Indian and the French modes of indicating one and the self-same distance.

But our author finds the last clause, in Italics, omitted in Champlain's *Voyages*, edition of 1632. These words were doubtless left out either as unimportant, or because the edition was an abridgment. He however charges the omission to the Jesuits, and moreover finds it big with latent meaning. It proves Brûlé's personal inspection of Superior (p. 157). Indeed, he adds (p. 157), "the presumption is strong that Brûlé's journey was not ended until he entered the mouth of the St. Louis river at the head of the lake." What a mountain is born from a mole-hill! If Brûlé really penetrated to that utmost corner it is a pity that he ever came back to prove a traitor. Champlain's verdict cannot be reversed; Brûlé, he says, "was paid a hundred pistoles for inciting the savages to trade. It was an evil custom thus to employ men of such bad lives that they ought to be severely punished. He was known to be very vicious and licentious." His epitaph may well be: Outcast from both English and French, he was deservedly eaten up by savages who, as Mr. Butterfield holds, believed cannibalism the most intense expression of detestation (p. 166).

JAMES D. BUTLER.

Home Life in Colonial Days. Written by ALICE MORSE EARLE in the year MDCCCXCVIII. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1899. Pp. xvi, 469.)

THE reading public is sure to be favorably disposed toward a new work by Mrs. Earle. Her studies of the life and manners, the employ-